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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT 25X1AFLD
333

COUNTRY USSR/Iran

SUBJECT Soviet Activity in the Caucasus
25X1APLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

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DATE DISTR. 17 DEC. 53

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

1. Inspectors have been arriving in Tbilisi (Tiflis) with a view to a new Communist Party purge. They have been collecting all information available in the vicinity, as a preliminary move.
2. The local leaders are accused of having neglected their duties and having been slack in their work. Arrests already made include: Serj Mizenko, Serif Atjariev, Zekeria Goroditso, Vasi Rabilevski, and Etem Nalidov (or Maridov). All these people come from the vicinity of Kutais.
3. There is also a suppression of Moslems who are accused of ideas contrary to those of the regime. A decree (No. 353) has directed the closing of 187 mosques. At the same time the following Moslem chiefs have been arrested: Molla Mekizade Tevzi, Rocop Ocuzbek, Musa Goeurgun, Hilmi Nemridov, Ilyas Ablak Bek (this name is known to have been mutilated in transmission but cannot at present be corrected), Durmus Onartug, and Huseyin Akayev.
4. The Soviet authorities are doing their very best to support the Natzal and Lahouni Kurdish tribes of northern Iran. Tudeh agents have already been able to establish friendly relations and a degree of cooperation between the two tribes, which have hitherto been rivals and somewhat estranged. Contraband arms are being delivered to these tribes.

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